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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Indochina	REPORT NO.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 20px;"></div>
SUBJECT	The National Guard of North Vietnam (Bao Chinh Doan)	DATE DISTR.	16 October 1953
25X1A	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 280px; height: 40px;"></div>	NO. OF PAGES	6
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		REFERENCES	

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The following is a discussion of the organization, equipment and personnel of the National Guard of North Vietnam (Bao Chinh Doan). Attached are two appendices which include tables and a graph illustrating the organizational structure and the disposition of troops and weapons.

Organization of the Bao Chinh Doan

1. The National Guard of North Vietnam (Bao Chinh Doan) is commanded by a colonel who has attached to his command a Secretariat (headed by a civil clerk) and a Bureau of Liaison (headed by a French captain). The Commander-in-Chief is assisted by a Chief of Staff, who has under him a G-1 (personnel), a G-2 (intelligence), a G-3 (operations and training), a G-4 (supply and transportation), a G-5 (propaganda), and a medical unit. All of these staffs are commanded by captains, except G-4, which is commanded by a first lieutenant.
2. The basic unit of the Bao Chinh Doan is the "Brigade", each of which has a province as its zone of action. The "Brigades" consist of a headquarters company, a mobile company, and from two to six rifle companies, and are commanded by first lieutenants or captains. The rifle companies consist of three platoons and a headquarters platoon. Each rifle platoon consists of 40 men and is responsible for the guarding of one post. The mobile company is never in cantonment, but is designed for the purpose of reinforcing any post which is threatened by Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) forces.

Equipment of the Bao Chinh Doan

3. The Bao Chinh Doan has an effective strength of 16,000 men. Although it does not have any heavy weapons companies with which it can provide supporting fire for its positions, the T/O specifies that each of the rifle companies is to have nine light machine guns, a bazooka, and light mortar grenade throwers. However, each of the rifle companies is provided with from one to three light machine guns, and thus the fire power of the DRV forces is greater than that of the Bao Chinh Doan, the DRV forces being well equipped with automatic rifles captured from the French Army.

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Officers of the Bao Chinh Doan

4. Recruitment of officers is not planned or consistent and there are no screening tests. As a consequence both officers and troops are of an unequal caliber, and positions are allocated without due consideration to the capabilities of officers or to their technical qualifications. About one-half of the non-coms and officers are trained at the Bao Chinh Doan School. The instruction at this school is hasty and disorganized, and the level of technical education is quite low. Morale of these men is very low, they are civil servants rather than soldiers and seek to remain in the large centers of population, while avoiding assignment to the military posts.
5. Most of the remainder of the Bao Chinh Doan officers are recruited from former non-commissioned officers of the Colonial Army.<sup>1</sup>
6. A minority of the Bao Chinh Doan officer group is formed from revolutionary elements and have unequal and widely divergent qualifications. These men lack discipline and have varying technical ability, but all of them have a spirit of initiative and faith in their cause.

Troops of the Bao Chinh Doan

7. The majority of the troops is recruited in a hasty and unsystematic manner. They do not receive sufficient training, which varies with each Provincial Commander. Their morale is not maintained at a high level; the standard of living for officers is too far above that of the enlisted men; and the officers set a bad example for the troops. In addition their armament is insufficient for the responsible and burdensome tasks which they have been assigned. Since October 1951, the number of desertions has increased to an average of 300 per month. Nevertheless, in resolute localities, well-commanded units of the Bao Chinh Doan have proved themselves to be excellent outfits, and constitute a great obstacle to the DRV.

The Command of the Bao Chinh Doan

8. The Commander-in-Chief of the Bao Chinh Doan and his aide were Mandarins who followed the French Army into China at the time of the Japanese occupation. Their military training has been limited, and since the Commander-in-Chief occupies only an administrative position, it cannot be said that there really is a command.

Mission of the Bao Chinh Doan

9. The mission of the Bao Chinh Doan is to protect the civil administration of the Vietnam government. The National Guard is under the indirect command of the Regional Administrators who have no military knowledge. Thus disagreements occur between the Regional Administrators and the military commanders. Although the Bao Chinh Doan is a self-governing organization, it tends to be encroached upon by the French Army.

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APPENDIX I

- A. The effective strength of the Bao Chinh Doan for 1952 was anticipated to be 20,000 men, but as of May 1952 the Bao Chinh Doan had only 13,378<sup>1</sup> troops, non-commissioned officers, and officers, who were distributed as follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Non-Coms</u>	<u>No. of Troops</u>	<u>No. of Posts</u>
Hanoi	54	170	800	--2
Bac Ninh	7	23	510	15
Gia Lam	5	22	495	9
Ha Dong	7	48	822	14
Hai Duong	9	32	747	15
Ha Nam	9	29	745	17
Hung Yen	9	35	914	15
Hoan Long	5	22	277	7
Kien An	9	42	711	21
Nam Dinh	7	56	966	17
Quang Yen	8	27	448	9
Son Tay	11	39	974	14
Thai Binh	8	49	896	21
Vinh Yen-Phuc Yen	8	24	518	12
Trai Quyt	10	27	512	9
Vinh Ninh	6	20	390	13
Ninh Binh	2	0	479	9
Bui Chu	8	0	417	8
Bich Dong	15	31	355	1
Mobile Battalion	12	26	470	6
	<u>209</u>	<u>722</u>	<u>12,477</u>	<u>232</u>

- B. Following is the armaments of the above units as of 1 May 1952.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Machine guns</u>	<u>Automatic Rifles</u>	<u>Automatic Pistols</u>	<u>Rifles</u>
Hanoi	1	3	274	271
Bac Ninh		6	48	351
Gia Lam		2	26	258
Ha Dong		5	94	336
Ha Nam		10	88	677
Hai Duong		6	47	568
Hung Yen		5	84	581
Hoan Long		2	105	170
Lien An		2	39	764
Nam Dinh		10	55	319
Quang Yen	3	3	28	333
Son Tay		15	86	497
Thai Binh		8	50	692
Vinh Ninh		3	37	429
Vinh Yen-Phuc Yen		8	52	426
Bich Dong	2	19	66	287
Trai Quyt	3	35	120	572
Ninh Binh <sup>3</sup>		0	0	0
Bui Chu <sup>3</sup>		0	0	0
Mobile Battalions <sup>4</sup>		0	5	0
	<u>6</u>	<u>142</u>	<u>1,304</u>	<u>7,521</u>

- 25X1A 1. [ ] Comment. The source did not indicate the number of posts for Hanoi.
- 25X1A 2. [ ] Comment. The difference between these two figures could conceivably be personnel attached to the headquarters of the Bao Chinh Doan.
- 25X1A 3. [ ] Comment. The arms for these posts are borrowed from the ecclesiastics of Bui Chu and Phat Diem. They are the private property of the church, and do not belong to the Bao Chinh Doan.
- 25X1A 4. [ ] Comment. All the equipment for the Mobile Battalion is provided by the French as a loan, with a prohibition against the use of this equipment by units other than the Mobile Battalion

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APPENDIX II

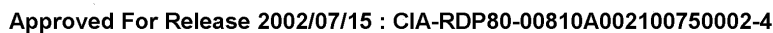
This chart depicts the organization and composition of each provincial unit (brigade) of the Bao Chinh Doan. In this chart the source does not indicate that a headquarters platoon is attached to each rifle company as stated elsewhere in the report. Since each company consists of 140 men, and each platoon consists of 40 men, the headquarters platoon is presumably composed of 20 men.

See next page for chart.

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graph TD
    A[COMMANDER IN CHIEF] --- B[SECRETARIAT]
    A --- C[CHIEF OF STAFF]
    A --- D[BUREAU OF LIAISON]
  
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